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18 January 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT : Possible Procedures  
REFERENCE : Attached Memorandum

1. Request for permitting the public announcement of testing the NASA lunar frame camera should be submitted by Dr. David to the DCI.

2. Request for decontrolling and declassifying/ film should be submitted by the Chairman of ARGO or by Dr. David to Chairman of COMIREX for consideration by the Special Task Group.

3. Request for generally applicable rules concerning the methods for sanitizing, if needed, to declassify U-2 photography should be submitted by Chairman, ARGO, to the Chairman, COMIREX. A similar request regarding certain analyses largely based on the Red Dot program, will be preceded by discussions between [REDACTED] of NPIC, and [REDACTED] in order to determine precisely what [REDACTED] wants. The analyses were possibly done under contract

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4. With your concurrence, I shall examine the proposed response by Dr. David to the NSC staff to insure that it is purely informative, and does not suggest or imply any line of action. If you want to study the revised draft before it is sent, let me know.

5. I would like your views on the above.

Attachment

15 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : Notes on the ARGO Steering Committee Meeting of 13 January 1971

1. Mr. Vernon of AID introduced Bill Romig of AID, who was recently cleared for [REDACTED] and who is engaged in Water Resources Engineering, working closely with the World Bank on the Brahmaputra and the Mekong River development projects. Dr. Quarles, scientific advisor to the Chief of Engineers, introduced Homer Willis, Deputy Chief of Civil Works of OCE.

2. Jack Martin asked that the problem posed in the third paragraph of the agenda be addressed first, since he had to leave early. He noted that a staff member of the NSC had evidenced interest in the apparent marginal utility of the ERTS A, and had requested OST to inform the NSC staff of additional proven resources, [REDACTED] that might contribute to earth resources surveys.

3. At Jack's request, [REDACTED] passed out a draft response that was to be sent to the Director of the Program and Analysis Staff of the NSC. This paper pointed out that the ERTS A will not meet the resolution requirements needed for earth resources surveys.

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I do not know whether the proposal was formalized or ever noted by the USIB.

4.

5. The paper stated that "excess U-2C aircraft are an additional means of supporting the earth resources applications. NASA is currently negotiating for two U-2C's to carry experimental payloads". If a similar arrangement could be made between the Department of Interior and the DoD, the paper stated, then high-altitude photography of the US could be obtained on a regular basis. The paper did state that the funding for such a program should be by the civilian agency. [REDACTED] passed me a note after discussion of the availability of U-2 material. It read:

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Our understanding of the operational plan for NASA U-2's is that the entire program will be white including permission to invite foreigners to come to the NASA center and kick the tires if they want to. Arch"

6. At this point I should report that I queried Jack Martin whether the NSC staff had requested an answer. He affirmed this and felt some meaningful response was necessary. I asked why the 40 Committee was mentioned. He admitted this was probably inappropriate.

I said that much that was in the draft paper was strictly the responsibility of the DCI, and the USIB. I said that I could not advise Jack Martin on his response to the NSC staff, but that I felt a response, if really needed, should be at most formulated, with proper caveats,

I also said that any such decisions would come after the study proposed in paragraph 3 of the agenda had been made and the advantages to be derived by the civil agencies through declassification of the output of the subsystems involved had been fully substantiated. Jack Martin agreed that such a study must be made before high level decisions can be expected. Colonel Rall supported me in this discussion, and we shall both be brought in to work over the paper to the NSC staff and to advise on the proposed study of ways in which the subsystems mentioned might provide output for unclassified use by civil agencies.

I mentioned that the USIB had requested a special task group to look into the possibilities of broadening the availability of photography for use within the government, and that this whole ball of wax should be part of its deliberations. Jack Martin implied that maybe a request on this whole matter should go to the DCI or, at least, to COMIREX. I agreed.

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8. [REDACTED] said he was worried about the rapidity of moves because of the upcoming Symposium in May at the University of Michigan, where many individuals from foreign countries will participate. NASA plays a big role in this Symposium.

9. Colonel Rall, supported by [REDACTED] and by me, felt that civil agencies' requirements for photography

should get to COMIREX as soon as possible, and if in the mapping field should be reviewed by the MC&G Working Group, which is competitive for this type of output. I mentioned that [REDACTED] is even now impatiently waiting for the mapping requirements

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10. [REDACTED] asked whether the analyses, effects of the atmosphere, etc., of the "Red Dot" photography could be declassified. I said I thought so, although some sanitization might be required. I suggested that [REDACTED] follow through with [REDACTED] on this. 25X1A Arch thought the results of the analyses would be very useful to others.

11. In discussing declassification of U-2 photography of the US, I stated that I saw no problems. Present practice of sanitization was cropping the edges, enlarging or reducing, and saying the product

was from high-altitude aircraft photography. This seemed to satisfy everyone, except that they felt the whole world knows about the U-2 as a photo reconnaissance vehicle. I said that the index of the photography of the US could probably be declassified but that the title might have to read "Photographic Coverage from High-Altitude Aircraft". I explained that, on request, sanitization procedures might be relaxed and officially announced.

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12. Fred Schmitz of DIAMC held that [REDACTED] as developed by DoD, was Confidential. He didn't give on this at all, much to my surprise after Colonel Rall's remarks of a few days ago. Arch Park thought the [REDACTED] classification problem could be settled easily at Secretary to Secretary level.

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13. [REDACTED] was asked, as a final point of interest, regarding the agency U-2 coverage of the Sierra Nevada snow cover. He said that the 1968-69 cooperation and coverage was most useful from the experimental and operational point of view. Decisions, with major pay-offs, were made with the use of this source material. For the 1969-70 season, the snow factor was not so important. Apparently the relationship between the operators of the birds and the chief hydrologist for ESSA at Sacramento was not as close as during the previous year and flight lines were not so accurately followed. There was no carping, however. [REDACTED] said that B&W photography was a bit confusing with partial cloudiness. Color photography would be of great assistance under such conditions.

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14. Sibert mentioned that the modified [REDACTED] for handling [REDACTED] photography had been constructed [REDACTED] and is now available at SPO, Reston, for any rectification of such photography as may be needed. He was concerned that, although 150 cleared people had visited SPO, Reston, none had actually used the photography which he had on hand.

15. There was discussion of the sophisticated Q-28 mapping system placed in C 135 planes. There are four of these at Forbes

Air Force Base in Kansas. Colonel Rall and others fought for operational funds, but none were forthcoming from the last budget exercise. The 6-inch Fairchild Geocon metric camera of this system is excellent; the output totally unclassified. If any civil agency can supply funds, the planes with the Q-28 system could undoubtedly be made available. The system also includes [REDACTED]

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Attachments

Tabs A, B, and C.